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## ANITEC Leads HIV Prevention in Nicaragua's Textile Sector



Dean García, Executive Director, ANITEC, during the event to launch the HIV policy.



Strategic Information Session with the Sexual Diversity Ombudswoman held at the Las Mercedes Free Trade Zone to address the issue of Human Rights and Sexual Diversity. May 24, 2012.

ANITEC, the Nicaraguan Textile and Clothing Industry Association, is a non-profit association established by the textile industry. This industry operates in Nicaragua's free trade zones and contributes 27% to foreign sales; represents 60% of exports, and generates 55% of the jobs in free trade zones, according to Nicaragua's Central Bank.

ANITEC is a trade association committed to corporate social responsibility, and as part of this commitment, they promote the adoption, compliance with, and implementation of HIV workplace policies among its member companies.

To date, six textile firms that are affiliated to ANITEC and that employ over 10,000 people have designed and implemented their HIV workplace policies. These firms are: Formosa Textil Nica S.A, Dasoltex, Metro Garment S.A, ROCEDES S.A, China United International Corp S.A., and HANSAE International S.A. The former companies are located in Las Mercedes Industrial Park and account for 70% of the employees of this industrial park.

HIV policies have been institutionalized in these companies and they promote: voluntary testing among their employees; confidentiality of seropositive status; zero tolerance for stigma and discrimination resulting from sexual orientation and seropositive status, and combined prevention. ANITEC has established alliances with strategic partners that also support implementing workplace policies.

The Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Study performed by the Private-Enterprise Superior Council – COSEP– in 2013 showed that, after training on combined prevention had been provided, knowledge increased by 8% and condom use increased by 7% among employees of this industry that contributes significantly to the Nicaraguan economy.